



## FISCAL MEMORANDUM

### HB 237 - SB 1366

April 7, 2021

**SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL:** Requires a court to include written findings of fact and conclusions of law to support a custody arrangement and parenting plan, unless both parents have agreed to the arrangement and plan. Requires the Department of Children's Services (DCS), to consider and evaluate a child's other natural or adoptive parent before considering any other relative, when placing a child who has been removed from one parent's home.

#### FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (006842):** Deletes and replaces all language after the enacting clause such that the only substantive changes are: (1) to specify that the child's other natural or adoptive parent is not eligible for the kinship foster care program or any payments for kinship foster care under the program; and (2) to increase, from 72 hours or less to two weeks or younger, the maximum age of an infant who may be considered abandoned if voluntarily left at a facility by the infant's mother, who then fails to seek contact with the child or revoke her actions within a period of at least 90 days.

#### FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

**Unchanged from the original fiscal note.**

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Requiring DCS to consider a child's other natural or adoptive parent before any other relatives will not have a significant effect on the case or work load of DCS; therefore, any fiscal impact to DCS is estimated to be not significant.
- Increasing the maximum age of an infant who may be considered abandoned under certain circumstances is not estimated to result in a significant increase in children in the custody of DCS; any increase in cases is estimated to be absorbed within existing Department resources.
- Based on information provided by the Office of the Administration of the Courts, any fiscal impact to the court system is estimated to be not significant.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The script is cursive and fluid.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/jg